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Country Gentleman K



REFLECTIONS

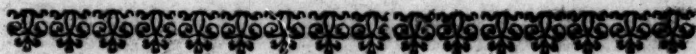
WITHOUT DOORS,

ON

WHAT passes WITHIN.

Recommended to the

PERUSAL of all FRIENDS to the
MILITIA, &c.



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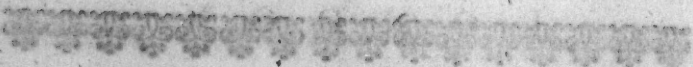
OF AN FRIENDS TO THE

MILITIA
WHAT PASSES WITHIN

As well as those who wish to protect
themselves, & recommended to the
CONSTITUTION and PROPER
Pursues of all Friends to the

MILITIA, &c.

BY A CORRESPONDENT



Author of the Essay on the Government of the Militia
Second Edition 1790

Printed by Six-Pence

REFLECTIONS

WITHOUT DOORS,

ON

WHAT passes WITHIN.

Recommended to the

PERUSAL of all Friends to the
MILITIA:

As well as THOSE who wish to preserve
Unanimity and Coalition between
ADMINISTRATION and PEOPLE, so
necessary at this critical Conjunction.

By A COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

L O N D O N:

Printed for R. DAVIS, the Corner of Sackville-
Street, Piccadilly. 1760.

[Price SIX-PENCE.]

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Recommended to the

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Parus A. A. 1879
MILITIA: All Friends to the




As well as
Unanimity
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necessary at this critical
and Government, as
that Anglo-American
view the thoughts and
persons who can have
nothing but the
Printed for R. Davis, the Corner of Sachville-
Street, Piccadilly. 1860.
the progress of our
Fifteenth-Six-Park Lane, there



Reflections WITHOUT DOORS:

ON

What passes WITHIN,

 HE greatest Characteristic of a free State, and one of its most valuable Priviledges, is the Liberty of the Press, which, though sometimes abused in Points of Virtue, Religion and Government, is, nevertheless, of the utmost Utility, in setting forth to public View the Thoughts and Considerations of Persons who can have no other Method of declaring their Opinion upon the Actions of Mankind.

THE Happiness of our Constitution in sending Representatives to Parliament, there

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to deliberate and consult for the Good of the People, is even once in seven Years an Opportunity of passing Judgment upon those who have been intrusted by their Country with its Liberty and Property ; at which Time such as have been faithful Stewards will deservedly receive the Approbation of their Constituents by a new Choice ; and those who have been lavish or negligent of their Country's Interest will, it is hoped, be made give Way to others who may have it more at Heart : Was this Method attentively pursued, it would help to procure faithful Guardians and Trustees.

BUT as short Accounts make long Friends, 'tis most undoubtedly true, that if the Balance was struck every three Years, Gentlemen would be more studious of continuing the Good-Will of the People ; the shorter the Term, the less valuable is a Lease ; and a quicker Rotation would ensue in the great Council of the Nation.

NEXT

NEXT to this so proper a Plan, and in former Times a Practice, is the Right of Publication confined within the Rules of Decency and good Manners; where every Attempt to gain the Attention of the serious Part of Mankind, will, I am confident, be candidly received; the Author desiring no other Applause than the Approbation of those who wish to support the present Government upon Measures of Oeconomy as well as Strength; and as nobody knows the breaking out of War or Rebellion, that the Kingdom may be put in a State to defend itself, without sending over for foreign Troops or raising Regiments, to take Men from the Plough and the Loom, without making them at the same time good Working-Men, as well as Fighting-Men.

THIS is the Benefit we may reap from the Militia Establishment, was it suffer'd to be made as useful as it has been found practi-

practicable; but when instead of being called out only for the Purpose of Rebellion, Invasion, or imminent Danger thereof, and to be kept out only for the Suppression of the said Rebellion or Invasion, the Regiments are made Use of to form Camps in Summer, and do Duty out of their Counties at Quarters in Winter, thereby loading the several Places with an immense Expence: This is the Abuse made of, not the Use it out to be put to: Nor would there be any Occasion to apply for a Relief of the Expence upon particular Counties, was they no longer to be embodied than imminent Danger required.

DIFFERENT Topics will naturally produce different Admirers; and I much despair of being attended to, or even afforded one serious Hour for the Perusal, because I am writing on a Subject of Politics, instead of debauching the Minds of
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my Readers by such lascivious loose Ideas as are observed to be the present Taste.

WHATEVER is fashionable will be well received: but Truths, however disagreeable, will in Time of Necessity find their own Way, of which the Militia produces a strong Example: For a long and expensive War must of Course drive us to consider such Methods as may be calculated for our Means; and in the same Degree as the *Beau Monde* in point of Dress, and such like Trifles, gives Law to the Country, the Country must in some Measure chalk out their Plan for public Proceedings; since without the Assistance of Gentlemen in their respective Counties, no Law could produce its desired Effect, or be put in Execution; so that there should a mutual Inclination concur to the Purposes of carrying on all the Measures of Government; and as the Militia seems to be the Fashion of the Year, it is but a common Degree of Com-

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plaisance in Government, at least, not to obstruct its Operation.

THE Zeal and Activity shewn all over the Kingdom by Persons of the first Rank and Fortune, plainly indicate their Approbation of the Measure, and carries no small Share of Merit with it: And as we are informed in the Country that no new Bill is intended to be pass'd this Year, it is but reasonable that some Provision should be made to enable Gentlemen to carry on the old, by making the Maintenance for the Families of the Militia a public Expence instead of a partial County one, which, as I said before, is made more burthenfome by the Militia being kept so long in actual Service, not on Account of the Imminency of an Invasion: Besides can this Expence weigh any thing in the Scale of eighteen Millions, which may probably be expended during the Course of this Year? Is it not

not a trifling Argument to put to the Hazard of embroiling public Affairs? And however Oeconomy is proper, I wish it was more attended to; but can never think it good Management to afford a Pittance to Militia, and throw away Millions to other Services.

WHAT is the Benefit of foreign Acquisitions, or the Advantages of Peace, if we lose that Union and Cordiality at home so necessary to make us great and respectable abroad? Are those Gentlemen who espouse the Militia Establishment to be desired to concur in Votes of Supply and Credit, at the same time debarr'd from enjoying the Good which might accrue from so practicable and useful a Plan?

THE open Declaration of a Right Hon. Patriot in Support of a new Bill the next Year, will, I make no Doubt, be made good by him when necessary, but

it is the *sine qua non* of its Existence to have the Families Provision alleviated in the Counties where the Expence at present lies; and in vain are future Promises or Expectations if their Being is denied; and there is no Doubt to be made but as proper Regard will be paid to the present Desire, as there certainly will be next Year to the new Bill.

It is one of the first Propositions laid down in Politicks, That when the People contribute chearfully to the necessary Taxes, heavy as they must be in Time of War, the Ministry should in Return make them some Compensation by encouraging and supporting their Desires in any favourite Topic that may arise; and can there be a more darling Child to the Country than the Militia? which has raised itself to so considerable a Height in so short a Time, in Opposition to the deep and weighty Designs laid
against

against it, and the Rubs thrown in its Way. I am not hereby wishing to make any Contradistinction to his Majesty's other Forces; I think they ought to go Hand in Hand, and assist each other as Children of the same Parent; but at the same time, live and let live; and I will venture to say that there will arise many more Friends in its Cause when it is trampled upon and ill treated, than was it permitted to have as reasonable a Trial in Time of Peace as it has had in Time of War. Persecution gives always Strength to the Persecuted; and the only fair Method of giving it Play is to see what may be made of it. If it is true and right in itself, the Country will receive a Benefit; if pernicious, it will cut its own Throat: Where then is the Occasion of stifling it in its Infancy? I have heard many People say, I should like the Plan could it be made practicable: that Part having been sufficiently tried, the Argument falls to the Ground. The next Plea is
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that it is too expensive. Created by What? Not by the Measure itself confined to the Words and Intentions of the Act, to be made use of only in Rebellion, Invasion, or imminent Danger; but keeping them out Year after Year, Winter and Summer, in Camps and Quarters, as far distant as possible from their Families and Occupations. And then it is expected that Counties should pay for this additional Load, created for the Publick Service, but not warranted by the Act. So that the Law is not to be adhered to in one Respect, but is represented as proper to be made Use of in the other.— I would just make one Comparison.

IF Foreign Troops are sent for, upon any Emergency, Whether the Transport Service, and many other Articles, exclusive of their Pay, would be desired to be defray'd by a County Rate, and not taken out of the Supplies of the Year? If therefore incidental Charges would accrue, in one Respect, and naturally

naturally attendant upon it, why should not the Provision for the Mens Families, so far as relates to the Times of being kept out longer than there is a Prospect of imminent Danger, be likewise put to the Publick Account?

GIVE me Leave to throw a little new Light upon the Picture, by representing the amazing Readiness that is shewn in chearfully contributing their Services to answer the Purposes of a Foreign War, and continental Measures.

Is not this strengthening the Hands of Government, at the Expence of the Act itself? But such is the Fact; the Militia is willing to wave any Plea they might make *In foro Conscientiæ*, to support the Publick in Time of Need. — Is no Return to be made? No Weight to be taken from one Part, that is so overloaded, and to be put equal upon All? No Earnest given of the least Continuance

ance after the Purpose is served? Let the thinking, considerate Part of Mankind weigh this in his own Breast, how different from the modern Way of Talking, of You assist me, and I will assist you. Quite otherwise; I wish you to continue your Services, but I will not make the Labour easy, nor the Burthen light.

Is this a proper Return for contributing chearfully towards carrying on the War? Is it a Time to make People uneasy? which must be the Case, without something is done for their Encouragement.

FOR however Gentlemen may plume themselves at the Destruction of Militia, I wish the Remedy may not be worse than the Disease: And if it is to come to that Issue, the sooner the Experiment is made, the better. Let Popularity be built upon its Ruins; but give the Wound in

in open Day-Light; not stab in the Dark. If the Plant is not to grow in this Soil, pluck it up before it takes too deep Root, which will save the dirty Work of Grubbing, and the Danger it may create in its Fall when full grown.

A Finger and Thumb may at present raise it out of the Garden-Pot, and by not being watered and taken Care of, the Plant may probably wither and die, unless it should chance to strike a fresh Shoot; but when permitted to grow, many Utensils, as Pixaxes, Spades, Shovels, &c. must be employed. — But why so much Work about a Tree, that you may be pleased with its Fruit when come to Maturity and Ripe? Or, if it is a Weed,

Quid te exempta juvat Spinis e pluribus Una?

FAR am I from wishing to see Party and Faction again set afloat: This
C Country

Country has severely felt the ill Effects of it: I would have a Coalition of Such who would promote good Purposes, for the well governing this Kingdom: those I think we have now at the Head of Affairs, and I wish to gain their Attention on this Subject before it is too late.

THIS Pamphlet is not intended to inflame and aggravate, but to reconcile Matters, and to induce an Acquiescence with reasonable Desires, whilst it is in their Hands; for if this Session was to end with sending Gentlemen dissatisfied into their Counties, a Flame might be kindled during Summer, not at all proper to carry on the necessary Measures of Government another Year; nor would a new Parliament mend the Matter. For I trust, "that in Case any Disposition should be made to stave off the next Year's Intention, such a Spirit might arise among Militia Friends, as may make them recommend

recommend, support, and assist each other in particular Counties and Places, who might return even a more Militia Parliament than the present:" Nor did ever Dissolutions procure the desired Effect. The Purposes which they have been practised to destroy, have always received additional Lustre and Support.——So that I trust some Insurance will be given to its Adherents, that the present happy Alacrity and Unanimity for the Common Cause may be preserved.

HAVE I not already explained the Desire of every Well-wisher of domestick Peace and Tranquility? For without a mutual Confidence subsists between the Governors and Governed, We can never expect that Spirit and Vigour, so necessary at this critical Conjunction.

Is it worth the Chance of having the War obstructed in its Operations; the Prospect of Peace set at a greater Distance; or higher Terms insisted upon for the

the Sake of accommodating small Matters with the Friends and Advocates for Militia? I will not dwell a Moment on the Thought, but hope that a Post or two will bring us Country Gentlemen an Account of a Treaty signed and entered into between Us and Ourselves, which may soon procure us a proper Peace Abroad.

If those in the House of Commons cannot bring Matters to Accommodation by Speaking, I should be happy if I might have contributed my Mite, as a Country Gentleman, by Writing.—— But if neither Elocution, nor Publication, can prevail,——*Actum est de Militia.*—— and let those answer for it that knock it on the Head.

F I N I S.



